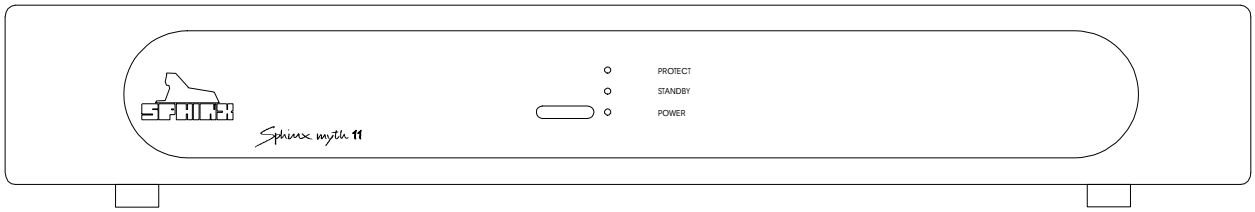
USER MANUAL

MYTH 11

STEREO POWER AMPLIFIER



1. UNPACKING 3

2. SPHINX WARRANTY CARD 3

3. THE POWER AMP AT A GLANCE 4
Front panel 4
Rear panel 5

4. INSTALLATION AND CONNECTIONS 6
Installation 6
Connections in general 6
Connecting loudspeakers 6
Connecting the inputs 6
Connecting the optical cables 6
Connecting the mains cable 7

5. OPERATION 8
Power On 8
Power off 8
Warnings 8
Encountering problems.. 8

9. CARE AND MAINTENANCE 9

10. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS 9

Congratulations on your purchase of the Sphinx Myth 11!

You are now part of an ever-increasing group of quality-conscious audiophiles using Sphinx products.
We are very proud of the tradition connected with the SPHINX name, especially concerning audio quality perfection.
This manual will help you to gain a maximum amount of pleasure and quality from your new Sphinx Myth 11.

The power amp uses specially selected Power MOS-FETs with a power bandwidth of over 20 MHz, a very fast slew rate and an unsurpassed phase linearity over the power bandwidth.
The most unique feature is that it works in full Class-A mode up to 10 W!
Thanks to the generous energy reserve of 69,600 µF, unlimited power is available for the largest signal peaks.
The amplifier is therefore very stable and can effortlessly drive *every* type and format of loudspeaker at maximum quality (even the most complex ones such as electrostatic and magnetostatic...).
The amp outputs are sent to the loudspeaker connectors via heavy duty, completely gold-plated relays.
Much attention has also been paid to the physical layout, the positioning of components and the internal grounding.

To obtain the maximum quality from this power amp it is necessary to use it with top quality audio components, preferably with other Sphinx components.

Please read this manual carefully before you install or use the Myth 11. It is important to familiarise yourself with the special functions, operation and possibilities of the Sphinx Myth 11.

Your local dealer will be able to answer any questions concerning other Sphinx audio components.

1. UNPACKING

Before leaving the factory every Myth 11 is subjected to stringent and extensive technical and exterior quality inspection.
This ensures you will enjoy many years of high quality audio from a perfect-looking product.

Attention: The power amp weighs over 10 kg! Never lift it out of the box without someone helping you.

After unpacking your Myth 11 we therefore recommend you carefully check it for any transport damage.
In case of damage: please contact your Sphinx dealer immediately and retain all packing materials for possible proof of damage and possible claims.

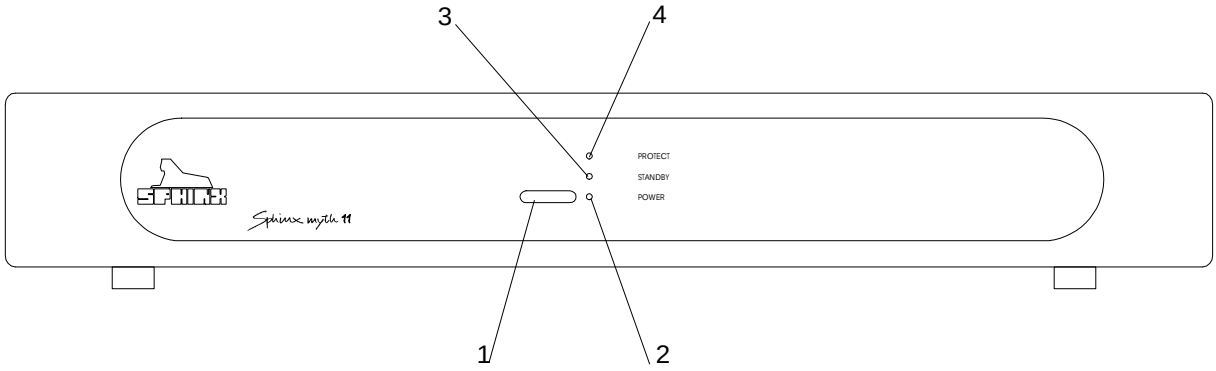
Even if the component is in perfect condition you should still keep the packing materials. If you need to transport your Myth 11 at a later time it will be best protected by the original packing materials.

2. SPHINX WARRANTY CARD

Please takes this opportunity to fill out the enclosed warranty card now!
Follow the instructions on the card or consult your dealer.
Please send the card as soon as possible to the return address (within 14 days after purchase).

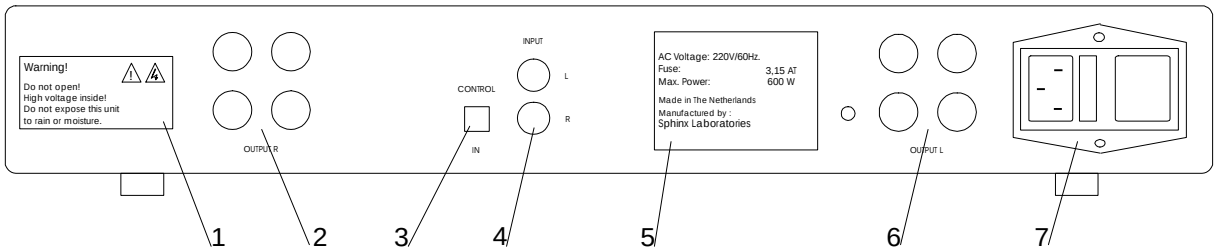
3. THE POWER AMP AT A GLANCE

Front panel



1. **STANDBY**: To switch the component on and off.
2. **PROTECT LED**: Normally off. When blinking red it indicates that the protection circuit is active
3. **STANDBY LED**: Indicates the selected function:
   stand-by red
   amp on off
4. **POWER LED**: Indicates the selected function:
   stand-by off
   amp on red

Rear panel



1. **Warning!**: Hier vindt u belangrijke waarschuwingstekens en -tekst die betrekking hebben op de veiligheid van dit apparaat
2. **OUTPUT L:** To connect the cable from the left loudspeaker:
   red +
   black -
3. **CONTROL IN:** To connect the optical cable from another Sphinx component like a pre-amp.
4. **INPUT L & R:** To connect the cinch cable from the left – and right output of the signal source.
5. **Manufacturer's label:** This shows important data for the component, such as serial number and mains power voltage.
6. **OUTPUT L:** To connect the cable from the left loudspeaker:
   red +
   black -
7. **AC POWER**: Connect the power amp to a mains outlet (230 - 240 VAC).
   The mains fuse is placed behind the cover and at the right there is the mains power switch.

4. INSTALLATION AND CONNECTIONS

Installation

Attention: The power amp weighs more than 10 kg!
Make sure you place the Myth 11 on a stable and sturdy support.

Never stack two power amps on top of each other.

The Myth 11 will become warm, so correct placement is critical. Do *not* position it on top of or close to other heat-radiating equipment (such as other power amps) or in direct sunlight.

Please ensure unrestricted ventilation around the component.

If you need to use the amp in a closed cabinet or on a bookshelf, you should definitely provide unrestricted ventilation around the component..

To prevent any possible interference keep power supply cables away from all audio cables.

If all these conditions are met, the Myth 11 should perform to the extremely high standards it is designed for.

Connections in general

Before you start connecting equipment it always is wise to check whether all the mains power cables of all components are disconnected from the mains outlets!
This will prevent any damage to the loudspeakers and amplifiers caused by incorrect wiring or settings.

Always use loudspeaker and audio cables and connectors of the highest quality.

Siltech cable is used throughout internally and we recommend using this same cable for all external connections.
If you have the choice between longer loudspeaker cables or longer audio cables, choose the latter (cables between pre-amp and power amp will cause the least signal quality loss).

Connecting loudspeakers

We recommend using a double pair of cables, if this is possible, with the loudspeakers (one pair for the highs and another for the lows).
In most cases you will hear a substantial improvement in the sound quality (but be careful to prevent shorted connections).
Your dealer can recommend the best cables and connection methods.

Connect the red OUTPUT R terminal (5) to the red or '+' terminal of the right loudspeaker.
Connect the black OUTPUT R terminal (5) to the black or '—' terminal of the right loudspeaker.
Connect the left loudspeaker in the same way to the OUTPUT L terminals (10)
When using unterminated cables please check carefully that there are no 'loose ends' to cause a short between the '+' and the '—' of the terminals on amp and loudspeakers!

Connecting the inputs

Make sure you connect L and R properly. Most cinch cables use Red for the Right channel and White or Black for Left.
All cinch connectors on the Myth 11's rear panel have a red centre for the right channel and a white one for the left channel.

When making the connections please refer to the descriptions for parts 5. up to 12. on page 5.

The unbalanced INPUT L and R (20kΩ) can be used for any unbalanced line level signal (e.g. from a pre-amp).

Connecting the optical cables

The Myth 11 has an optical jack connector for CONTROL IN.

When the CONTROL IN of the Myth 11 is connected to the CONTROL OUT of another Sphinx component, you don't have to switch the Myth 11 with the O / I switch (12). The power amp will automatically select Stand-by mode as soon as the other component is set to stand-by.

In 'stand-by' mode the bias current of the power amp is set to a lower level, which drastically decreases the temperature and power consumption. Additionally it significantly increases the life span of the component.
The power amp also warms up more quickly so you will be able to enjoy maximum performance without significant delay.

Ensure proper connection of the optical cables (from CONTROL OUT to CONTROL IN), otherwise the LED next to the STANDBY button (1) on the front panel may remain off even though the stand-by mode is activated.

Note: When a the optical connection to another component is made, the STANDBY button on the front panel (1) will be inoperative!

If the Myth 11 is placed in strong direct sunlight the stand-by mode may self-activate. In that case you should place the supplied dummy connector in the CONTROL IN (6) jack.
We strongly recommend against placing the component in direct sunlight.

Connecting the mains cable

Before you connect the cable please check whether the mains voltage indicated on the manufacturer's label on the rear panel is the same as your local mains voltage.
If not: please contact your dealer and do not connect the component to the mains.

Connect the mains cable after you have connected all other components in the system and have double-checked all connections.

5. OPERATION

Connect the mains cable of the Myth 11 to a mains outlet.

Once you have connected all other components, you may switch the Myth 11 on with the O / I switch (12) on the rear panel.

The STANDBY LED (3) will blink for a while after which it will light red. The Myth 11 is now in stand-by mode.

From now on you should switch the power amp on and off with the ❍·STANDBY button (1) on the front panel or the ❍·STANDBY button of another Sphinx component connected to the optical CONTROL IN jack.
This way all circuits will remain at working temperature and the audio quality will be 100 % within 15 minutes after activating. Additionally it considerably increases the life span of the component.

Power On

Switch the Myth 11 on with the ❍·STANDBY button: the LED (3) will extinguish and the POWER LED (4) will light.

If you activate the power amp for the first time or after a long period of non-use with the power 'off', the amp will be at maximum performance after one hour.
From stand-by mode it takes only around 15 minutes.

Power off

You switch the Myth 11 off (stand-by) with the ❍·STANDBY button (1).

N.B.: If you need to switch the system on again immediately, you should wait for at least 60 sec though.
Because switching on the amp within 30 sec will activate the protection circuits: the red PROTECT LED (2) will blink rapidly.

Only if you will not be using the amp for a long period (e.g. during holidays) should you switch the amp off with the O / I switch (12).
In stand-by mode the Myth 11's power consumption is still around the 70 W mark.

Warnings

1. Never put two amps on top of each other.
2. The component should not be subjected to moisture or fluids.
3. Do not touch the component and the loudspeaker outputs, especially not with moist hands: this powerful amp can output voltages in excess of 36 volt.
4. Before removing the top panel, you should disconnect the mains cable and wait at least 30 minutes (because the power supply remains at the maximum voltage for a long time). Removing the top panel will void your warranty: the panel should therefore only be removed by an official Sphinx service engineer!
5. Before disconnecting a loudspeaker or audio cable, please switch of the component with the O / I switch (12)
6. An AC extension cord should never be used wholly or partly coiled: this poses a severe fire risk!

Encountering problems...

The Myth 11 has extensive protection circuits. These will activate when:

- the temperature exceeds the limit (>70 °C),
- the output has an Offset voltage (>+/-350 mV),
- the output is shorted (current limit) or
- there is no power supply voltage.

If, after power on, the protection circuits detect something wrong the Myth 11 will immediately switch to stand-by and the red PROTECT LED indication will blink rapidly.

In almost all cases the problem will be with the loudspeaker cables.
Check them all and solve the problem.
If you can't find the problem or the cause is definitely not the cables, please contact your Sphinx dealer.

Should for some reason the mains fuse be blown, you should replace it with a new one of exactly the same type and rating:

5x20 mm
250 VAC / 3.15 A / slow

The fuse is located behind the cover between the mains connector (11) and the power switch.

Never use a fuse of a different rating: this could lead to serious damage and may cause fire!

6. CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Clean the exterior with a soft, lint-free, anti-static cloth. Do not use force while wiping the surface. To remove difficult stains use a few drops of detergent on a moist cloth, sweep carefully and wipe dry afterwards.

If some scratching occurs, please consult your Sphinx dealer first. He can give you advice about possible solutions.

Do not use polishing or cleaning agents: they may damage the sensitive acrylic finish.

Do not use aerosol cleaning agents.
Most contain solvents which might react with and damage the acrylic finish.

7. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Bandwidth	0 - 300,000 Hz (+0/-0.25 dB)
Phase response error	<2° (0 - 20,000 Hz)
Gain	29.5 dB max. 29.85 times.
Minimum Power Output (1 - 20,000 Hz)	>2x 94.5 W into 8 ohm (19.8 dBW), THD <0.01% >2x 157.5 W into 4 ohm (22.0 dBW), THD <0.01% >2x 217.6 W into 2 ohm (23.4 dBW), THD <0.01%
THD+N (IHF-A)	<0.06% / 0.006% (2^{nd} harmonic, 10 - 20,000 Hz)
IMD	<0.005% (50 W into 8 Ω)
S/N ratio (IHF-A)	>85 dB / 98 dB
Channel separation	>90 dB (1 - 20,000 Hz)
Slew rate	>20 V/µs
Damping factor	>500 (1 - 1,000 Hz)
Input	cinch: unbalanced
level, nominal	1.25V (1.9 dBV)
impedance	20 kΩ
Supply capacitance	26,000 µF total per channel
Power consumption	550 W max. (15 W standby)
Dimensions (h x w x d)	73 x 434 x 350 mm
Weight	10 kg

This unit conforms to the EMC interference regulations issued by the EU and to the CE standards.
This unit complies with safety regulation VDE 0860 and therefore with international safety regulation IEC 65.

Technical specifications may be changed by SPHINX without prior notice if technical developments make this necessary.

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